

REMARKS

Claims 17 - 19 and 21 - 23 are pending, claims 1 - 16 and 20 having been canceled above and claims 21 - 23 having been added.

It appears that an IDS statement that was submitted prior to the first Office Action may not have been collated with the official file at the time of the first Office Action. Attached hereto is a copy of the "Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant" (IDS) that, as evidenced by the PTO date stamp, was originally submitted on April 28, 2004. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to consider the prior art listed thereon and to return an initialed copy of the IDS in the next Office Action. In view of the original IDS submission having been made prior to first Office Action (dated June 2, 2004), no additional fee is believed to be due at this time.

The objection to the drawings made in the last Office Action should be obviated by the cancellation of the claims above. None of claims 17 - 19 and 21 - 23 claim features that are not illustrated, and thus withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

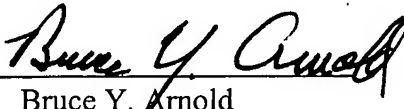
Claims 17 - 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aastuen et al. (US 6,672,721). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested. Claim 17 requires that the adhesive layer have a refractive index N_c such that " $N_c \geq 1.75$ ". In Aastuen et al., the MRBP/adhesive layer 1106 has a refractive index of 1.56 (see col. 14, lines 24 and 25 thereof), and a high index layer 1108 is required, such as one formed of PBH71 glass having a refractive index of 1.92 (see col. 14, lines 26 - 29). Thus, claim 17 is not anticipated by Aastuen et al. The present invention does not require a separate high index layer (such as the layer 1108) that is interposed between one of the prisms and the adhesive layer. Rather, in the present invention, the adhesive layer itself has a high refractive index. Moreover, it would not have been obvious from the prior art of record to modify Aastuen et al. by omitting the high index layer 1108 and providing an adhesive layer having a high refractive index as is claimed in claim 17. As claims 18 and 19 each depend from claim 17, these claims are also not anticipated by Aastuen et al. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 17 - 19 as being anticipated by

Aastuen et al. be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 21 - 23 have been added. It is respectfully requested that claims 21 - 23 be examined and, unless more pertinent prior art is found, that claims 17 - 19 and 21 - 23 be allowed. Thus, an early Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ARNOLD INTERNATIONAL

By 
Bruce Y. Arnold
Reg. No. 28,493

(703) 759-2991

P.O. Box 129
Great Falls, VA 22066-0129

Attachment: Copy of IDS originally filed on April 28, 2004